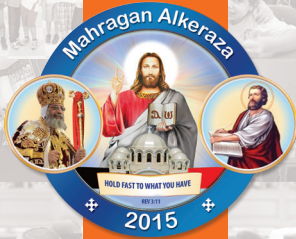


MAHRAGAN ALKERAZA 2015



HOLD FAST

what you have

that no one may take your crown - Rev 3:11



English Edition Gr SK

HOLD FAST
what you have



H.H. Pope Tawadros II
Pope of Alexandria &
Patriarch of the See of St. Mark



H.G. Bishop Mina
Bishop of Mississauga,
Vancouver and Western Canada

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HOLD FAST
what you have

INTRODUCTION

Mahragan Alkeraza 2015

As we celebrated the conclusion of last year's Mahragan with the distribution of the trophies for the first, second and third place winners, we were grateful for God's blessings for a successful 2014 Mahragan. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said during the Awards Ceremony in Egypt, "I am happy to see the activities of the Youth Bishopric, I am glad that our beautiful Church that is 2000 years old is full of young youth and I am proud to see the creative work and achievements of the youth."

Last year, in addition to the usual participation from Egypt and Sudan, we had a great worldwide participation from 192 Churches representing more than 20 countries and 8 languages.

The theme for Mahragan 2015 is "**Hold Fast What You Have, That No One May Take Your Crown**" (Rev 3:11). This year, God is asking each one of us to grow in Christ by:

1. Having a Strong and Unshaken Faith
2. Reading our Precious Bible Daily
3. Being Faithful to our God
4. Being Successful



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We hope that all of you will participate in the Mahragan activities this year, and encourage everyone you know to join us in one of the greatest annual events, presented by our mother, the Coptic Orthodox Church.

May God bless Mahragan Alkeraza this year and the efforts of all the participants and coordinators, through the prayers of our beloved father Pope Tawadros II.

✠ My best wishes for a happy
Festival

✠ Bishop Mousa

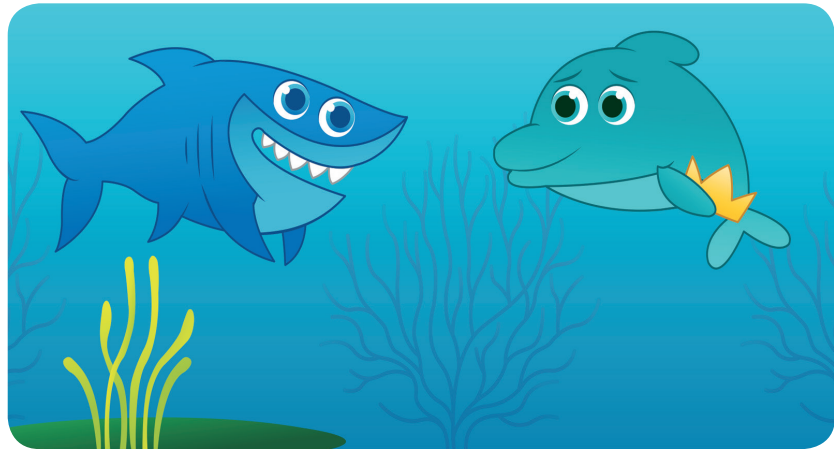
MY FAITH IS STRONG AND UNSHAKEN

Deep down under the sea, everyone in Sea World is very excited! Every fish has a role in order to prepare for the annual event, where they all get together to crown the "Fish of the Year". Dolphy is in charge of getting the crown and all the fish can't wait to see what the crown looks like this year! On the way back to Sea World with the crown, Dolphy encounters Mr. Jaw...

Mr. Jaw: Dolphy!! Oh, how I've waited for you for so long!!

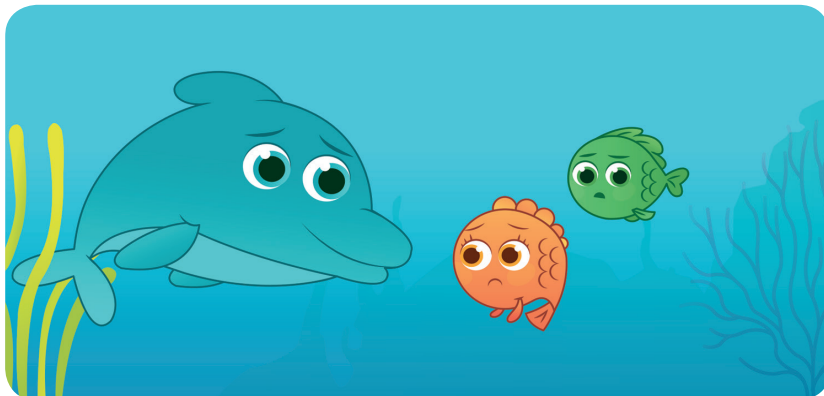
Dolphy: Huh? Waiting for me? Why?

Mr. Jaw: Well, I know you're in charge of getting the crown for the Fish of the Year. And obviously, like every fish around here knows, I am the biggest and strongest of all. So I might as well just take it from you now.



Dolphy: No, you can't do that! You left our kingdom to live far away, so you can't ever have this crown. And if you'll excuse me, I have to go. All the fish are waiting for me!

Mr. Jaw wasn't too happy with this and since he's stronger than Dolphy, he takes the crown by force. Dolphy returns to Sea World very sad.



Fish 1: Yay! Dolphy is coming

All Fish: Hurry! Dolphy is back!

Oscar: Dolphy, show us the crown!

Lenny: Is it the same as last year or better?

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Fish 1: Where are you hiding it?

Fish 2: Come on, show it to us!

Dolphy: Wait! Wait, let me explain... On my way back, I met Mr. Jaw, and...

All Fish: Oh no! What did he do?

Dolphy: He took the crown from me. I tried to prevent this from happening, but I couldn't!

The fish are devastated.

Oscar: What are we going to do now? We can't have a celebration without a crown.

Dolphy: But Mr. Jaw is so strong! There's no way we can get it back from him.

Lenny: Don't worry, nothing is impossible for our Lord Jesus. Our Lord Jesus can do all things. You know, we have seen so many things that prove that our Lord Jesus can do all things, so be brave and let's go get the crown back from Mr. Jaw.

Oscar: Ok, Lenny, you're brave, but I am still scared.

Lenny: Let me tell you a story that happened a long time ago. It's a story my grandfather told me and it will encourage us and teach us to trust God and not be afraid, because our Lord Jesus is "Eternal, He can do all things, He is the Good Shepherd".



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The miracle of catching fish at the sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-14)

After the Lord Jesus died on the Cross and resurrected from the dead, Peter, one of His disciples, decided to go fishing. Six other disciples went with him. They tried the whole night but they could not get any fish. In the morning, they saw our Lord Jesus standing on the shore.

Dolphy: But didn't you say that our Lord Jesus died on the Cross?

Lenny: Yes of course! He was crucified and died on the Cross but He rose on the third day. He will live forever because He is Eternal. Anyway, when our Lord Jesus saw the disciples, He asked them if they had any fish. When they said no, our Lord Jesus told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. The disciples listened to Him and they were able to get a big catch of fish.

Oscar: That's amazing! The disciples spent the whole night without catching anything and with one word from our Lord Jesus, their net was full!

Lenny: Yes, with just one word! Didn't I tell you? Our Lord Jesus can do all things! After they got all this fish, the disciples drew their net to the shore. There they found that our Lord Jesus had a surprise for them.

Oscar: What surprise?

Lenny: Our Lord Jesus had prepared fish and bread for them to eat.

Oscar: Our Lord Jesus is so good, He took care of the disciples because they were hungry and tired.

Lenny: Yes, Our Lord Jesus sees everything and He knows our needs. He is the Good Shepherd, who takes care of every one of us, just as the verse says:

Memory verse: "He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

Dolphy: That's a beautiful story. It teaches us that our Lord Jesus is Eternal, He can do all things and He is the Good Shepherd.

Oscar: That's why we should never be scared.

ACTIVITY

AT THE SEA OF TIBERIAS



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ACTIVITY

HE IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

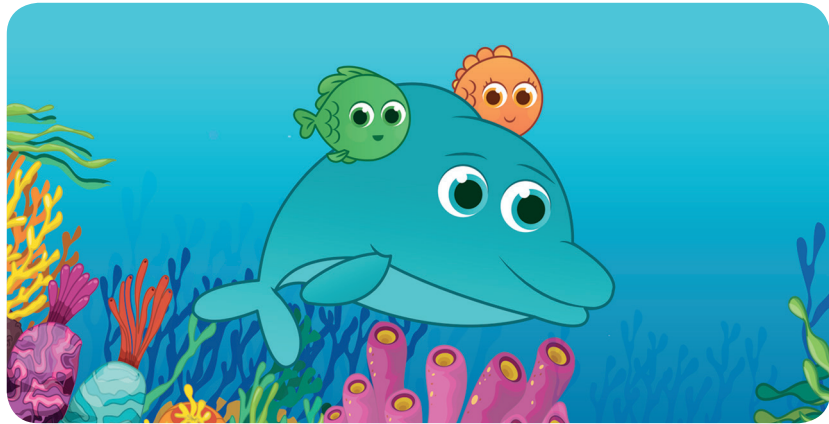


MY BIBLE IS PRECIOUS TO ME

Oscar: Lenny, you're right, we should all be courageous.

Dolphy: Yes, let's go and get the crown back from Mr. Jaw.

Lenny: That's great, but we have to have a plan. First we need a map to find his house.



Dolphy: Oh! Well there is only one map and Alfie, the turtle has it, because she keeps all the books.

Lenny: Awesome! Let's go to Alfie's house.

When they get to Alfie's house, they find her sleeping, so they decide to wait until she wakes up. They all go for a swim, but Oscar disappears.

Oscar (to himself): Why wait until Alfie wakes up? Let's not waste any time! How about I go inside Alfie's house without making any noise and get the map. That way I can surprise my friends and make them happy and we won't disturb Alfie. Yes, that's a great idea!

Oscar goes into Alfie's house and finds the map.

Oscar: Found it! I'm gonna go tell my friends. Guys! Guys! I have the map, here it is ... Ouch! I'm stuck! Help me guys, I can't get out. What are you looking at? Come and help me!

Lenny: Who told you to go in Alfie's house to get the map?

Oscar: Didn't you want it? I wanted to surprise you guys. Don't worry I didn't wake Alfie up. Come and help me, I can't get out.

Lenny: Oscar, it's Alfie who's holding you.

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Oscar: Alfie! How did you wake up? I didn't even make any noise. I'm sorry I didn't mean to wake you up.

Alfie: I'm not upset because you woke me up, I'm upset because you went in my house and took something without my permission.

Oscar: What's wrong with that?



Lenny: Of course that's wrong Oscar. You have to take permission first, didn't you read this in the Sea Instructions Book? It's the most important book that we've ever had and it has everything inside it.

Oscar: The most important book? That big old book that mom reads to us every night? It's so boring, it puts me to sleep!

Lenny: Don't say that Oscar! That's the most precious book out there and it will teach you to do the right thing in every step of your life.

Oscar: I really didn't know that this was wrong. I'm sorry Alfie, I won't do this again and I promise to follow the teachings and instructions of our book because it's a precious book .

Alfie: It's okay Oscar. As long as you know that what you did was wrong, I'm not upset anymore. Actually you just reminded me of a story of a young boy who became a king and made all his people return to the Word of God that is found in the book of God's Law. He made them change from their wrong ways to God's way. Let me tell you his story...

Josiah holds on to God's word (2 Kings 22 & 23)

Josiah was a young boy who loved God very much because his mother taught him the Word of God. When Josiah was 8 years old, he became the king after the death of his father. Josiah lived his life following the Word of God as his mother taught him. He also listened to Hilkiah the high priest who

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was helping him on how to deal with different subjects in his kingdom. When Josiah grew up, he found out that the people were worshipping idols instead of God. They were also doing many bad things because they forgot about the Word of God and His teachings. This was because they stopped reading the Word of God and stopped teaching it to their children. Because Josiah knew the Word of God, he started to fix the wrong things that the people were doing. He asked his soldiers to destroy the idols that the people were worshipping so that they can return to God. Josiah supervised this by himself to make sure that the soldiers were obeying his orders.

He also started to renovate and rebuild some of the destroyed parts of the temple because it was the house of God. As they were working on the renovation in the temple, Hilkiah the high priest found the Book of the Law which had all of God's teachings. This book was lost for years! Hilkiah was very happy and sent it to the king.

The king gathered the elders and all the people in the temple and read what was written in the Book of Law. He told them that they have to listen and follow the Word of God. All the people listened to Josiah the king, they promised to follow God and worship Him and never worship the idols again.

Through this, Josiah was able to make the people return to God and follow all God's words and teachings and stop their wrong deeds.



Oscar: Wow, that's amazing!

Alfie: Yes, because the Word of God is a source of joy for all those who listen and obey, as the verse says:

Memory verse: "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart." Psalm 19:8

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ACTIVITY

THE STORY OF JOSIAH

C B Z E Z N Y B B N B I I D D
O J H C Z B C G F O V Y R T S
V Q E R L U O S H R D R O M T
E K A C W K T A O D H O E P T
N K R J P O G L I I Q I J U W
A V T J F O H G M K B T L R N
N H U T E B A N A K W E B P G
T S O H P R D I G O Q H N T F
Z T W H R T U K E O I A Z Y O
T O T L I O J S C R J I Z L B
A L E Z E M B L A B G S Q O M
S S M R S B R V G L P O N R I
H T P L T Q B C S Z E J M D G
E R L P S C T B M B C M P W H
S W E J Q J G R E O Q H G Y T

ASHES

JERUSALEM

MIGHT

BOOK

JOSIAH

PRIESTS

BROOK

JUDAH

SOUL

KIDRON

KING

TEMPLE

COVENANT

LORD

TOMB

HEART

IMAGE

ACTIVITY

KING JOSIAH



LET US BE FAITHFUL TO OUR GOD

Once they learned how to follow and keep the teaching of the most important book, the friends thank Alfie and begin making a plan to get back the crown. As they were planning...

Alfie: Who is that coming from afar?

Lenny: I don't know. I've never seen him before.

Dolphy: He seems lost.

Lenny: I wonder who he is and what he wants.

Stranger: Can anyone tell me where I can find Dolphy?

Lenny: Woah! Dolphy, he is asking about you!

Dolphy (scared): I'm Dolphy, how can I help you?

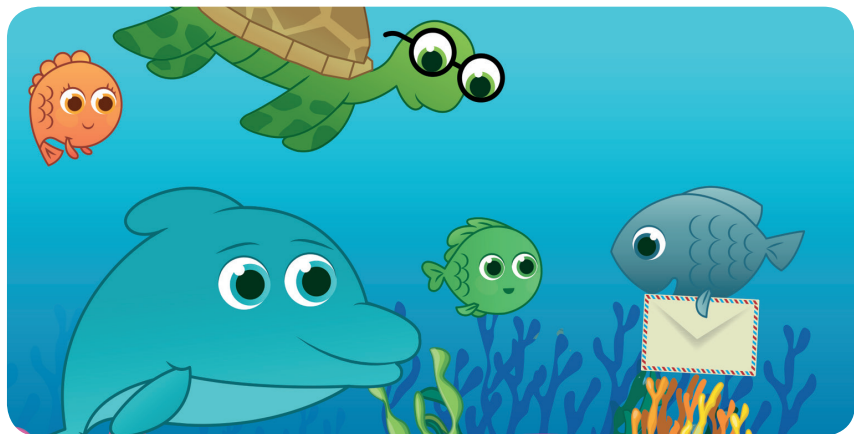
Stranger: I have a letter for you from Mr. Jaw

All: Mr. Jaw, the shark?

Stranger: Yes, that's him! Here's your letter. He's also waiting for your reply. Goodbye for now.

Lenny: Dolphy, open it! Open it! Let's see what Mr. Jaw wants.

Dolphy: "From Mr. Jaw the great to Dolphy and his friends: I'm ready to return the crown to you, but on one condition. You have to leave your King and come live with me and I will be your king. If you follow what I say, I will return the crown and arrange a huge celebration for you all. Let me know what you decide to do."



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Alfie: What are we gonna do now? We can't leave our king. We just can't!

Lenny: Of course, we can't leave our king, even if this means that we won't get back our crown. We have to let the king know right away!

Oscar: Wait ! I'm afraid that...

Lenny: Oscar didn't we decide that we will never be afraid?

Dolphy: Lenny, you're right, let's go to the king.

The friends went to the king and told him what happened.

Dolphy: Your majesty, Mr. Jaw doesn't scare us. We're not afraid of him because you're on our side.

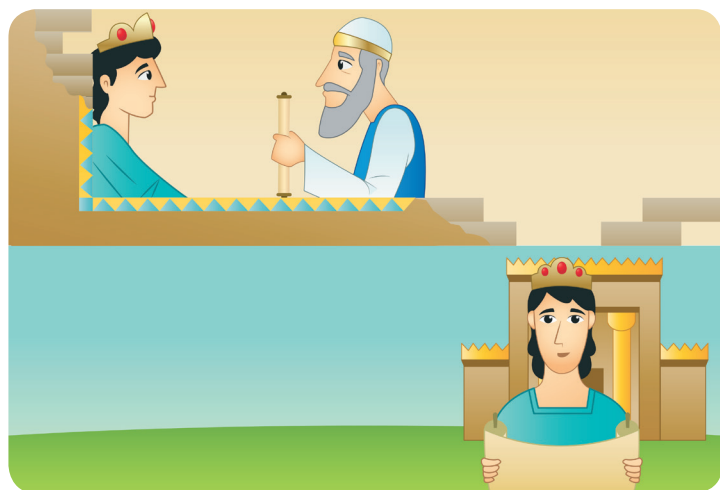
Lenny: And we know that you can help us get back the crown.

The King: Thank you for your love and trust... I promise to help you. Actually you just reminded me of an amazing story.

All: What story?

Daniel and his love to his God (Daniel 6)

The King: The story of Daniel! Daniel was one of God's people. He was also one of king Darius' ministers. Daniel loved God so much and he used to kneel down and pray before God three times every day. Daniel was very successful and honest in his work, and since he was the best minister of all, the king wanted to promote him to a rank higher than all governors and ministers in the kingdom. But the ministers





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and governors were very jealous and tried to find anything against Daniel to prevent this from happening.

Dolphy: Did they find anything wrong that Daniel was doing?

The King: Of course not, because Daniel was honest in everything he did. The ministers and the governors thought to harm Daniel by using the fact that he prayed to God all the time. They presented a request to the king saying: "Whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days except you O king, shall be cast into the den of lions". The king agreed and signed the decree and the entire kingdom heard about the king's order.

But Daniel loved God so much and prayed to Him daily. He refused to obey the order of the king. Just as he did everyday, Daniel went up to his room, knelt down and prayed to God because he knew that God heard his prayers.

Memory verse: "You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you." Job 22:27

The ministers and the governors watched Daniel. When they saw him praying to God and disobeying the king's order, they went and told the king and asked the king to cast Daniel in the den of lions. The king was very sad because he loved Daniel, but he had no choice. He had to follow the decree that he made. The king then gave the command and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions.

Dolphy: Poor Daniel! The lions must have devoured him.

The King: Actually Dolphy, the lions didn't hurt Daniel, because the Lord sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths and deliver Daniel.

Lenny: Wow! God delivered Daniel from the lions' mouths? God must have loved Daniel very much.

The King: That's right Lenny! God not only loves Daniel but He also loves all His children and protects them.

ACTIVITY

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN



LET US BE SUCCESSFUL

The friends decide to go to Mr. Jaw to get the crown back, and as promised, the king sends soldiers to help protect the friends. Following the map, they finally reach Mr. Jaw's house.

Mr. Jaw: Look who I have here! So you all finally decided to leave your kingdom and come to me. Took you long enough!

Dolphy: No! We're not afraid of you!

Lenny: We're here to get our crown back.

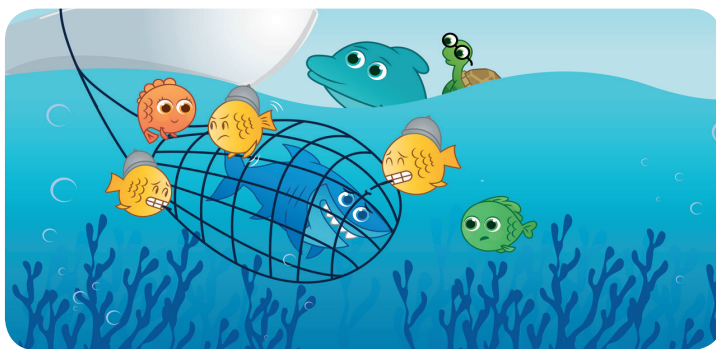
Oscar: And we're not leaving our king!

Mr. Jaw: Are you guys out of your mind? There's no way I'm giving you the crown back! Why would...

Suddenly, a huge net comes down and traps Mr. Jaw.

Mr. Jaw: Oh! Help! Help! Help me take this net off. Please! I'm trapped! Please don't leave me.

Dolphy: Don't worry Mr. Jaw, we'll help you!



Oscar: Soldiers, come from this side, pull him from his tail.

Dolphy: No! No!... Come here and pull him from his flippers.

Oscar: No Dolphy! We need to pull from his tail.

Dolphy: No Oscar! You don't know what you're doing. Alfie, come help me pull his flipper!

Oscar: No Alfie! Help me pull his tail.

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Mr. Jaw: Ouch! Ouch! You're hurting me! They're going to catch me.

Alfie: Everyone stop! We have to be organized to help Mr. Jaw. Let's decide on everyone's role first. Mr. Jaw, try to pull down on the net. Soldiers, I need you to divide yourself into two groups. One group will go with Lenny to help Mr. Jaw pull the net, the other group will try to break the net. Oscar, you have to stay here and make sure that there are no other nets coming down. Dolphy and I will go to the surface of the water and try to distract the fishermen so they can let go of the net.

Lenny: Great idea!

The friends and the soldiers work together and free Mr. Jaw.

All: Yay! Mr. Jaw is free!

Mr. Jaw: Wow! I can't believe it! Thank you all for helping me even though I have been so terrible to you. Please forgive me. From now on, I will never treat you like that again.

Dolphy: You're very welcome Mr. Jaw. If we weren't organized, we would have never been able to succeed.

Lenny: Thank you Alfie for showing us how to be organized!

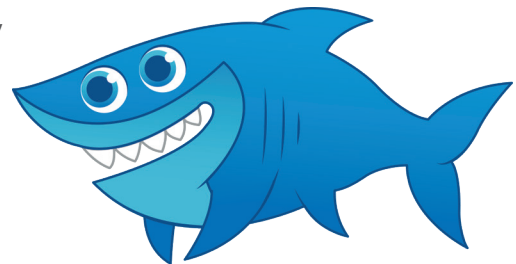
Alfie: No problem! Order is the key to success. To prove it, let me tell you about a place that's very organized.

Oscar: Oh! Where?

Alfie: The Church! Everything in the Church is organized because our Lord Jesus was the One who instituted it.

Lenny: Really? How is it organized?

Alfie: In so many ways! Even the vessels used during the Divine Liturgy are organized in order and roles.



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During the liturgy, on the altar in the sanctuary, every altar vessel has a unique role.

Dolphy: Wait! What are vessels? What do they look like?

Alfie: Let me go through them one by one.

The Church Vessels

- The Paten

This is the first vessel that the priest puts on the Altar. It's a small round tray, and inside it, the priest puts the Orbana of the Lamb which will become the Body of Christ during the Liturgy. The Paten with the Orbana inside represents the manger where our Lord Jesus was laying when He was born. On top of the paten there is a dome, just like the star that was above Jesus' manger.



- The Chalice

It is the Communion Cup in which the priest pours wine and water, which will become the Blood of Christ during the Liturgy. With the Chalice, there is a silver spoon called the Mysterion, which has a Cross at the end. The Mysterion is used to administer the Holy Blood during Communion.



- The Ark or the Throne

A wooden box that is placed in the middle of the Altar behind the Paten, which holds the Chalice during the Liturgy. It is decorated on its four sides with icons of the Lord Jesus Christ, St. Mary and the saints.

- The Incense Box

A box for incense, usually made of silver or carved wood. It is placed at the right side of the paten. A small spoon is usually placed inside the incense box to put the incense in the censer.



- The box of the Holy Communion (Ciborium)

This is a circular box, usually made of silver, placed on the altar behind the box of incense. The purpose of this box is for the priest to carry the Holy Communion to the sick people who were not able to attend the Liturgy.

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- The Gospel

A silver or gold box decorated with icons, enclosing a copy of the four Gospels or the complete New Testament.

Oscar: Wow! So everything in the Church has a place and order?

Alfie: Yes Oscar! Of course. Just like I said before, organization is the key to success.

Memory verse: "Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Corinthians 14:40

Lenny: Awesome guys! Now let's get the crown and head back to the king. Mr. Jaw, will you come back with us!

Mr. Jaw: Absolutely! Let's go!

Once the friends return to the kingdom, they find the celebration has begun. The king greeted the friends and was so happy to see Mr. Jaw return.



Oscar: This was a long journey your Majesty, but we learned so much!

The King: Great! What did you learn?

Oscar: I learned how my faith should be strong and unshaken because God can do all things, He is our Good Shepherd and He is Eternal. I also learned to follow the teachings of our kingdom that is written in the most important book just like king Josiah had done. And from Daniel, I learned to be faithful to my God and my king. Finally, when we were trying to help Mr. Jaw we learned that when we are organized in our life, we will succeed.

The king: Very good Oscar! As a reward for your adventure and the wonderful lessons you learned, I declare that you're the winner of this year's crown.

Oscar: Wow! I'm speechless! Thank you your majesty and thank you to all my friends!

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Memorization

BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John

Acts

5. Acts

St. Paul's Epistles

6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians

14. 2 Thessalonians

15. 1 Timothy

16. 2 Timothy

17. Titus

18. Philemon

19. Hebrews

Catholic Epistles

20. James

21. 1 Peter

22. 2 Peter

23. 1 John

24. 2 John

25. 3 John

26. Jude

Revelation

27. Revelation



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ACTIVITIES

Hymns & Tasbeha

Coptic Language

Praise & Music

Arts

Creative Writing

Sports

For more information about Mahragan activities please visit the Mahragan website at: www.mahragan.ca



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